GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:242
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015
Survey of Rare Plants/Animals
Azad Shri Kirti (JHA)

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to find out rare varieties of plants and animals in the country, which are on the verge of extinction;
(b) if so, the details of such plants and animals ; and
(c) the measure/steps taken by the Government for the protection of rare plants and animals in the country ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) Yes, Botanical Survey of India(BSI) and Zoological Survey of India(ZSI) mandated for survey of plant and animal diversity respectively in the country, have been carrying out survey and documentation of floral and faunal resources of the country including rare and threatened species.

(b) Based on their studies and field surveys, BSI has already published four volumes of Red Data Book of Indian Plants and Red List of Threatened Vascular Plant Species in India, which provides information on 1236 threatened plants in the country. On the basis of studies conducted by ZSI and their recommendations, the Ministry has brought out a document titled 'Critically Endangered animal Species of India' in 2011.

(c) Towards the conservation of threatened plant species, Govt. of India has established a protected area network of 678 protected areas (102 National Parks, 515 Wild Life Sanctuaries, 4 Community Reserves and 57 Conservation Reserves) in different bio-geographic regions of the country for in-situ conservation of Biodiversity.
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BSI has also been conserving a number of threatened plants including medicinal ones in its Botanic Gardens at Howrah, Noida and those associated with its regional centres for their ex situ conservation, thereby complementing the in situ conservation.

Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State Governments under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats'', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation to wildlife.

At policy level some conservation oriented legislations e.g. Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest Conservation Act, 1980, National Biodiversity Act, 2002, etc. have been notified to ensure protection of threatened species and their habitats. . Under the provisions of Section 38 of the National Biodiversity Act, 2002, the species which are on the verge of extinction or likely to become extinct in near future are notified, as threatened species. Ministry has already issued notifications to this effect for 14 states.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

Concurrent to India's Presidency(2012-2014) of the Conference of the Parties(COP) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Indian Companies have come together to address the critical issue of biodiversity loss under a national initiative. The India Business & Biodiversity Initiative(IBBI) serves as a national platform for businesses and its stakeholders for dialogue sharing and learning, ultimately leading to mainstreaming sustainable management of biological diversity into businesses.

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